

Discovery of Coal in a new site. By W. DUNBAR, ESQ. Assistant Surgeon, 5th Irregular Cavalry.

Camp Burree,
22 miles from Hazareebaugh,

In marching about a week ago from *Dorunda* to *Hazareebaugh*, I halted one day at *Bullea*, a very considerable village about fourteen miles to the south of the latter station. Having heard reports that there was coal to be found in the vicinity, I requested the *Kotwal*, a very intelligent and obliging man, to show me where it was, we proceeded a mile up the banks of a considerable nullah, called the *Haharoo*. The soil appeared to be mostly alluvial, containing in some places a good deal of *kanker*. The greater part was cut into rice *khets*. On the banks of the *Suncheraie*, a small nullah running into the *Haharoo*, I first saw the coal in a bed about three feet in thickness, with a gentle dip or inclination to the west. It was splintery, very black, lying below a friable sandstone, and alluvium containing *kanker*. The bed seemed to be of great extent, and I have no doubt that any quantity of coal can be procured at this place. I brought some specimens with me to my tent, and found that those from near the surface did not burn well; in fact it was with some difficulty I could get them to ignite at all. The others burned very well indeed, without a great deal of smoke, and leaving an inconsiderable quantity of ashes. The coal bed seemed to have been never worked, and I had some trouble in clearing away the grass and bushes, to procure the specimens which I took with me. I have some of these still in my possession, and regret that I have no opportunity of forwarding them to you at present, for the opinion of better judges than myself.

At *Bullea* there are large and very extensive iron works, employing a great many persons, and yet strange to say, though most of the inhabitants are aware of the existence of this extensive coal bed, they never use it for their furnaces; but are at great expense in transporting wood and charcoal from the forest, several miles distant. I endeavored to impress upon some of the workmen how advantageous it would be, and what a saving would accrue to them, were they to use this coal; but by

their answers, they evinced their utter indifference to the subject, and their determination to adhere to the customs of their fathers. The coal bed is not above a mile distant from the works.

The village of *Bullea* is very prettily situated, and the view from it in every direction very picturesque. Towards the N. W. and at a distance of three or four miles, is a semicircular range of hills called the *Mahoodee Pahar*, very much resembling, though scarcely equalling in altitude the Salisbury Crag, at Edinburgh; that is to say, there is a steep *talus* (formed in a great measure to all appearance from debris, which have fallen from above) of 200 or 300 feet elevation, and then you come on a steep precipice, which it appears impossible to scale. The *Haharoo Nuddee* winds in beautiful meanderings along the base of this high range. Hilly ranges of considerable altitude surround the plain on which *Bullea* is situated, and I regretted much that I had no time to examine their formation, or even to visit the *Mahoodee Pahar*, which was not very far distant from my camp. In a commercial point of view, little or no importance can be attached to the discovery of coal at *Bullea*, at least in the present day. It is near no navigable river; no public works of any importance are in its vicinity, excepting the iron works above alluded to, and it will require more than persuasion I am afraid, to induce the natives to abandon the use of wood and charcoal, for a cheaper and more useful material. The roads passing over steep and rocky ghauts, are by no means in a good state, though it is to be expected, owing to the exertions of Major Ousely, Governor General's Agent, that they will soon be much improved.

[This paper was communicated immediately on its receipt to Government, but having been subsequently mislaid, has not appeared at an early date as it should have done.]